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MINUTES

OF THE

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OF THE

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

14 - 16 August, 1981
Meeting held at the
Deaconesses' House, Dresden
German Democratic Republic

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WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Dresden, German Democratic Republic
14-16 August, 1981

OPENING ACTIONS

A. Introduction and worship

The opening service of worship, in the chapel of the Deaconesses' House, was led by the Moderator. Morning worship on subsequent days was led by Mr Bena-Silu and Metropolitan Gregorios.

The meeting convened at 9.45 a.m. on Friday, 14 August. Bishop Hempel welcomed members of the Committee to Dresden and Rektor Fink welcomed them to the Deaconesses' House and spoke of the nursing and other work undertaken by the Community.

Following the meeting, the State Secretary for Religious Affairs held a reception for the members of the Executive Committee.

B. Roll call

The General Secretary called the roll of those attending, presenting apologies and greetings from the Honorary President, Dr W.A. Visser 't Hooft.

C. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held at the John Knox Centre, Geneva, Switzerland, 9-13 February 1981, having been previously circulated, were confirmed.

D. Adoption of agenda

The General Secretary introduced the draft agenda, which was adopted.

E. Membership of sub-committees

The General Secretary presented a revised list of membership of sub-committees, which was agreed (Appendix II).

REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY

The General Secretary began by expressing gratitude for the seven months' leave of absence granted to him for refreshment and reflection, and his joy at being back with the WCC. He paid tribute to Dr Raiser for his direction of the Council's work during this period.

In the months since the last Executive Committee meeting, Commissions and sub-units had been working hard to complete their programmes before the end of the year. Major attention had been given to Assembly preparation by both staff and the Assembly Preparations Committee. Bible studies on "images" of life were now ready; work had been done on the development of the theme, and a theological symposium was planned for December; staff and Committee had struggled to define the four major themes and to identify ten issues ripe for action by the churches; plans for worship at the Assembly, for visitation and for communication were underway.

There had been a whole series of meetings since the last Executive Committee. The Pacific Conference of Churches' Assembly, held in Tonga, 2-15 May, had been attended by Ms Assaad. The Assembly of the Christian Conference of Asia, attended by Ms Assaad and Mr Koshy, had taken place in Bangalore 18-28 May. The Assembly of the All Africa Conference of Churches had met in Nairobi, 2-12 August; the WCC had been represented by Ms Jiagge and Dr Raiser. All these regional meetings had been marked by changes in leadership and direction and, particularly in AACC, by a more intense participation of the member churches and a deeper awareness of belonging together in the region to witness to the Gospel. In all regions people-centred movements had arisen and their concerns and suffering were very much at the heart of these Assemblies.

A number of meetings with member churches and families of churches had taken place. These included a consultation on relations between the WCC and the Lutheran World Federation, held at Bossey, 11-14 May; a consultation with representatives of Eastern Orthodox Churches, Sofia, 23-31 May; and the celebrations of the 1600th anniversary of the Second Ecumenical Council of Constantinople, which the General Secretary had attended as a guest of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. A significant address had been given by Metropolitan Chrysostomos. On 3 June there had been a meeting with representatives of the Salvation Army, who had informed the WCC that they had decided to resign from membership and become a fraternal organization as a world confessional body. It had been hoped to hold a meeting with representatives of Oriental Orthodox Churches immediately after Central Committee, on 27-28 August, but this had been postponed till probably next year.

Turning to a number of special situations, the General Secretary referred to the meeting in March in Hong Kong with representatives of churches in China at which Ms Skuse, Dr Kang and Mr Koshy had been present. Dr Potter hoped to meet Bishop Ting in Canada in October and to find ways in which the WCC could be more effectively related to the churches in China.

Visits to Zimbabwe included a team visit by Mr Gatu, Mr Rafransoa Mr Castro and Mr Kobia to heads of churches and NCC leaders. Ways needed to be found of helping the churches of Zimbabwe to discover their life and mission in the new situation in their country.

Close attention had been given to the continuing crisis in the Middle East, through close contact with the Middle East Council of Churches. The CCIA meeting in May had produced a good statement on Lebanon. This had provoked a strong reaction from Jewish partners in dialogue and it was felt they should be informed when the WCC proposed to make statements which concerned them.

There was deep concern about Central America and staff had visited the area to discuss questions of human rights and refugees. PCR had organized a visit to the Aborigines of Australia. The team had included Ms Skuse, Mr Bena-Silu, Ms Webb and Dr Barkat.

Threats to peace continued to increase and a draft statement would be presented to the Executive Committee for discussion before going to the Unit II Committee.

Three major meetings concerned with the WCC's work had been held. The Unit II staff and officers had met with representatives of American churches in March in Atlanta to consider the integral character of the work of the Unit and its relationship with what the US churches were doing. A Finance Consultation in Annecy in May had included both finance officers of member churches and agencies and representatives of WCC commissions and working groups. The International Consultation on the Community of Women and Men in the Church, which had been held in July in Sheffield, UK, would have a full presentation at the Central Committee.

Following the adoption of criteria regarding banks having relationships with South Africa, laid down by the Executive Committee in February 1981, there had been correspondence with the banks used by the WCC and a special consultant had prepared a report. In April, a consultation organized by the UN Anti-Apartheid Committee, and chaired by the Rev. William Howard, President of the NCCC USA, had been attended by Mr Kenworthy, Mr Koshy and Mr Nesbitt. There had also been a meeting with the President of the Union Bank of Switzerland.

In May, Mr Klaus Gysi, State Secretary for Religious Affairs of the GDR, had visited Geneva and had made a public statement on his understanding of relations between Church and State in this country.

The General Secretary concluded by referring to the visit which it had been hoped the Pope would pay to the WCC headquarters in June. Arrangements for a three-hour visit had been made and a draft joint statement on Common Witness had just been agreed when news of the attempt on the Pope's life was received. The General Secretary had immediately sent a message to the Pope and had received a letter from Cardinal Caseroli. Dr Potter proposed that a draft of a message to the Pope be prepared by the Executive Committee for transmission by the Central Committee. This was agreed.

3. MODERATOR'S REPORT TO CENTRAL COMMITTEE

The Moderator outlined the report he proposed to submit to the Central Committee. This would include changes in Central Committee membership and staff; important events since last year; a reference to the WCC's financial position and an appeal for the financing of the Assembly; public statements and an expression of concern for their better circulation and interpretation in the member churches; forthcoming events, including the Public Hearing on Nuclear Disarmament; studies which were reaching their final stage; publications, and the need both for publications in languages other than English and an increased circulation in English; Assembly preparation and the world context in which this planning was taking place. The Moderator would put a number of questions to the Central Committee: How could we plan an Assembly that proclaims authentically that "Jesus Christ is the Life of the World" in this setting? How could we enable the Assembly to become a credible expression of our faith that God is, that God reigns, and that God gives life in the midst of the ebb and flow of things temporal? How could we make the Assembly a focus for the renewing and deepening of the faith of all our member churches and not just an experience for those chosen to go to Vancouver? A list of events not mentioned in detail, and a list of publications, would be appended to the report.

4. MEMBERSHIP

A. Applications for Membership and Affiliation

Mr Perkins presented the applications for membership and affiliation.

a. Presbyterian Church of Africa

It was agreed to recommend that the Central Committee accept the Presbyterian Church of Africa as a full member church of the World Council of Churches.

b. Presbyterian Church of Mozambique

It was agreed to recommend that the Central Committee accept the Presbyterian Church of Mozambique as an associate member church of the World Council of Churches.

c. Swaziland

The Executive Committee considered the question of the two Councils in Swaziland, the Council of Swaziland Churches and the Swaziland Conference of Churches, which had expressed interest in affiliation with the WCC. The matter was referred to the Nominations Sub-Committee.

At a later session, Ms Skuse reported that, in view of the lack of information and clarity regarding the relationship between the Council of Swaziland Churches and the Swaziland Conference of Churches, the Nominations Sub-Committee recommended that no action be taken until there had been further consultation with the churches in Swaziland in the course of a visit to the

country. The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation.

d. It was reported that a number of churches were actively considering applying for membership or associate membership and could be expected to do so before the Assembly.

B. The Salvation Army

The General Secretary outlined the history of relationships between the Salvation Army and the WCC. It seemed clear that although the Salvation Army had been a member church since the beginning, it had in fact behaved like a fraternal organization and had rarely responded to documents sent to member churches. Following the change in the functions of the WCC at the Nairobi Assembly, especially the addition of the phrase calling the churches to the goal of visible unity "in one faith and in one eucharistic fellowship", the Salvation Army had pointed to the problems raised for a non-sacramental body. Then, after the Special Fund grant to liberation movements in Zimbabwe, in August 1978, the Salvation Army had suspended its membership. The General Secretary had invited the Army to a series of consultations to discuss not only the question of the grant but also long-standing questions, including the nature of the fellowship of churches in the WCC and the self-understanding of the Salvation Army. Only one such consultation was held in December 1978. At a meeting in Geneva on 3 June 1981, the General had announced that the Salvation Army was resigning from membership but requested the status of a fraternal organization. A formal letter had been received and the General Secretary presented a proposed draft of a reply. He suggested that this be discussed in detail by a small group consisting of Ms Jiagge (convener), Ms Webb, Dr Kang and Bishop Harms. This was agreed.

At a later session, Ms Jiagge presented a draft letter to the Salvation Army. After discussion and minor amendment, it was agreed to present the proposed letter in a closed session of the Central Committee.

TEAM VISITS

A. Australia

Ms Webb reported briefly on the extensive visit to Australia. Its purpose had been the international exposure of the situation of the Aboriginal people. A report had just been published. Ms Skuse expressed the appreciation of the Australian churches to the WCC and the members of the team for the visit.

B. Korea

Dr Raiser presented the report, compiled from the notes of individual members of the ecumenical team which had paid a pastoral visit to Korea in January 1981. It summarized their encounters with the member churches and the National Council of Churches in Korea and listed specific areas of concern. The report was intended to serve as a visible sign of solidarity with the

struggling church in Korea and to encourage more frequent exchanges between churches in similar situations. Dr Kang expressed gratitude for the visit.

6. CONSULTATION BETWEEN THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES AND THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION

Dr Raiser presented an aide-mémoire on the Consultation on Relations between the WCC and the LWF, held at Bossey, 11-14 May 1981. The meeting had been convened as part of the follow-up of the consultation of representatives of various Christian world communions and the WCC held in 1978.

The Consultation between the WCC and the LWF, which had begun with brief self-presentations of the two bodies, had agreed on a number of guiding principles for their relationships. In particular, it had been recognized that the WCC and LWF were different in kind and had legitimately different functions. Nevertheless, their ecumenical efforts should be complementary. The WCC and the LWF, based upon respect for each other's self-understanding, committed to mutual support and open to mutual correction, were prepared to develop closer relationships and to expand and intensify further cooperation.

The participants had agreed that more extensive cooperation should be initiated or developed in the following areas: the nature of the World Council of Churches; Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry; the study on Confessing the Apostolic Faith Today; bilateral and multilateral complementarity; Women in Church and Society; Education; the Church in the World, and Dialogue with Jewish people and people of other living faiths and ideologies. A number of detailed recommendations regarding these study programmes had been made. Recommendations were also made with regard to working relationships and a number of issues, which would require attention as the process of consultation moved ahead, had been identified. There were further recommendations for broadening and strengthening existing cooperation in the field of communication.

Finally, with regard to the implementation and follow-up of the report, the participants recommended:

a. that the respective General Secretaries arrange for regular consultation and programme review among senior staff members of the WCC and the LWF normally twice each year. Progress reports on activity are to be presented to the decision-making bodies of the LWF and the WCC in 1982 and 1984.

b. that a further ad-hoc consultation following the LWF Assembly in 1985 should be envisaged. The purpose of such a meeting would be to assess the progress made and to look for new possibilities for cooperation. Participants at the 1985 meeting might include newly elected members of the Central Committee, staff and the moderators of the major commissions concerned.

Prof. Sabev, who had represented the WCC at the recent meeting of the LWF Executive Committee in Turku, Finland, reported that the LWF had received the report with appreciation and commended its recommendations to the new LWF Executive Committee.

After discussion, the aide-mémoire was referred to the Programme Sub-Committee.

At a later session, His Holiness Karekin II, on behalf of the Programme Sub-Committee, presented a proposed draft minute on the aide-mémoire. After discussion and amendment, the minute was accepted as follows:

The Executive Committee

1. received with appreciation the aide-mémoire from the consultation, held on 11-14 May 1981, between representatives of the WCC and the Lutheran World Federation;

2. noted with satisfaction that the LWF, being the confessional body with the largest central organization and with several programmes parallel to those of the WCC or directed towards the same partners, intended its programmes not as a duplication of the activities of the WCC but rather as aiming at a constructive complementarity;

3. commended to the General Secretary the many recommendations for more effective coordination of the work of the WCC and the LWF, aiming at a greater degree of effective impact on the life of the member churches;

4. urged that in this line of collaboration and coordination immediate attention be given to the process of preparing for the WCC Assembly in Vancouver 1983.

WCC CONSULTATION WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF EASTERN ORTHODOX CHURCHES*

Prof. Sabev presented the report on the WCC Consultation with official representatives of the Eastern Orthodox Churches, held in Sofia, 23-31 May 1981, which had been previously circulated to Executive Committee members. The purpose of the Consultation, which had been attended by 30 delegates together with WCC staff, was to discuss important ecumenical issues and to search for better cooperation in order to strengthen Orthodox participation in the WCC. It was the first consultation of this nature and it should be seen in the context of both the theological consultation in New Valamo, 1977, and of preparation for the Sixth Assembly.

The main topics on the agenda had been: The Orthodox understanding of ecumenism and participation in the WCC; Orthodox experiences and problems in the WCC; Perspectives of Orthodox contributions to the activities of the WCC; "Jesus Christ - the Life of the World". Prof. Sabev stressed the following points:

* A full report of the meeting will be published shortly.

a. The ecumenical movement was an important sign of our times which put before the Orthodox Churches a number of tasks and challenges.

b. Ecumenism was a necessary expression of catholicity. It had various dimensions of faith and action which formed an integrated whole. The Orthodox did not accept the distinction between the so-called "vertical" and "horizontal" dimensions of the Gospel - such terminology and opposition were not found in the Bible or in patristic teaching.

c. The Toronto Declaration (1950) needed further development but was still an essential factor and an acceptable basis for Orthodox participation in the WCC.

d. With the variety of its sub-units and programmes, the WCC had played a "promising, challenging and enriching role" for the cause of Christian unity and common witness.

e. The Orthodox Churches shared in the fellowship of the WCC. Faithfulness and gratitude to the Council were expressed in many paragraphs of the report.

f. The Orthodox Churches had received much from the Council and had contributed substantially to the fulfilment of its goals. They were ready to increase their moral and material support to the Council and its programmes.

g. The present structures, working style, language and methodology of elaborating theological statements in the WCC created problems for the adequate expression of Orthodox positions.

h. In the section on Orthodox contributions to the activities of the WCC, a number of proposals had been made. Some concerned the Constitution and Rules of the WCC; others referred to technical possibilities for better communication. Most proposals related to an increased Orthodox representation in Assemblies, committees and on the staff of the WCC, and in the preparation of documents. Particular attention had been given to the process of voting and adoption of ecumenical consensus on doctrinal issues.

i. The final section of the report dealt with questions regarding the Sixth Assembly: Bible studies, theological work on the Assembly theme, the visitation process and publications.

The report underlined the significance of the Consultation which "was seen as a contribution to Orthodox commitment to the ecumenical movement, and a sign of renewed Orthodox sharing in the covenanted fellowship and activities of the WCC".

The report was referred to the Programme Sub-Committee.

At a later session, His Holiness Karekin II, on behalf of the Programme Sub-Committee, presented a proposed draft minute on the report. After discussion, the minute was accepted as follows:

The Executive Committee

1. received with appreciation the report of the WCC Consultation with representatives of Eastern Orthodox Churches held at Sofia, 23-31 May 1981, noting that this meeting was the fruit of intensive preparatory efforts since the Central Committee meeting in 1979;

2. noted that the report makes recommendations which can be grouped in three different categories:

   a. those which should be commended to the General Secretary for immediate implementation, including in particular the recommendations regarding:

      i. preparations for the Assembly at Vancouver
      ii. the recognition of Orthodox concerns and priorities in the programmes of the WCC
      iii. Orthodox presence on the staff of the WCC
      iv. Orthodox participation in the drafting of WCC documents
      v. Orthodox participation in major responsibilities at WCC conferences
      vi. efforts to strengthen the presence of Orthodox thinking in WCC activities
      vii. and regular meetings of Orthodox representatives during sessions of the General Assembly and the Central Committee

   b. those which concern changes in the Constitution and Rules of the WCC and thus need more careful study, including in particular:

      i. the recommendation to adopt Greek as one of the working languages of the WCC
      ii. the matters regarding the proportional representation of Orthodox Churches on official WCC bodies and the nomination of Orthodox representatives
      iii. the recommendations with theological and ecclesiological implications, i.e. the reference to baptism in the Basis of the WCC, the procedure used for adoption of documents reflecting the emerging ecumenical consensus on doctrinal issues

   While the first two of the above-mentioned points should be commended to the General Secretary for follow-up and report to the Executive Committee in February 1982, the last group of recommendations should be referred to the meeting of the Plenary Commission on Faith and Order, to be held at Lima, Peru, January 1982, for consideration and advice,

   c. those which call for intensive and in-depth theological study and reflection, including in particular the observations made regarding the Orthodox understanding of ecumenism and the experiences and problems arising for Orthodox Churches from their participation in the WCC. The respective parts of the report should be

referred to the General Secretary with the expectation that they will be examined further by the Orthodox Task Force for later report to the Executive Committee,

3. referred the report of the Consultation together with the above observations to the Central Committee with the understanding that the Committee on the General Secretariat will prepare the final recommendation for action.

8. STUDY ON "THE COMMUNITY OF WOMEN AND MEN IN THE CHURCH"

The letter addressed to the churches by the International Consultation on the Community of Women and Men in the Church, held at Sheffield, UK, 10-19 July, was considered by the Programme Sub-Committee. The Executive Committee agreed that the letter should be referred to the Committee on the General Secretariat.

9. PROGRAMME TO COMBAT RACISM

A. PCR Commission Meeting

Prof. Barkat reported briefly on the Commission meeting held in Zimbabwe, 12-18 July and exposure programme from 19-24 July. This was the first time the Commission had met in Africa. The meeting had consisted of two parts, the main business, including discussion of what liberation means to a newly-independent country, and visits to local churches and communities.

The General Secretary spoke of the need to find ways, in cooperation with the AACC, of helping the churches in Zimbabwe to rediscover their mission and their role in the new situation of their country.

B. Special Fund to Combat Racism

Prof. Barkat reported the recommendations of the PCR Commission for grants from the Special Fund to organizations of the racially oppressed and groups caring for the victims of racial injustice. He referred to the grant of £10,000 made by the British Council of Churches to the Fund, which indicated a new relationship of the BCC to the Special Fund.

After discussion and some amendment of the proposals, the Executive Committee agreed to approve the proposed grants in the total amount of US$587,000 (see Appendix III).

A grant to the Dene Nation was made subject to a positive report following the projected staff visit to the Canadian churches.

Bishop Harms voted against the grant to the Anti-Apartheid Movement and the Information Centre on Southern Africa in the Federal Republic of Germany, on the grounds that money for them could be found locally.

It was agreed that there should be an embargo on the public announcement of the grants until 21 September so that inform-

ation might be received by the member churches prior to such announcement.

Dr McCloud and Ms Webb questioned the practice of making repeated grants to some organizations. The Special Fund was intended to provide symbolic support rather than regular funding and new organizations should be considered. The Executive Committee agreed to ask the PCR Commission to consider the matter.

JOINT WORKING GROUP

Dr Raiser presented a draft outline of the Fifth Official Report of the Joint Working Group. A carefully prepared draft would be submitted to the Central Committee and to the Vatican in 1982, and the final report would be presented to the Sixth Assembly. The Report would summarize the activities of the Joint Working Group during the past seven years and would also make proposals for the future direction of cooperation between the Roman Catholic Church and the WCC. In discussing the draft outline, the Joint Working Group itself had noted a number of points to be taken into account in the fuller development of the Report, and had recommended that a number of questions be addressed to a cross-section of persons who had been involved in collaboration between the Roman Catholic Church and the WCC over the last seven years.

The document was in three sections: 1. The ecumenical situation, especially between the Roman Catholic Church and the WCC; 2. The activities of the Joint Working Group, 1975-1983, particularly in the studies on Unity and Common Witness, and collaboration in the social field; 3. The future, with proposals for the development of work in these three areas.

The paper was referred to the Programme Sub-Committee.

At a later session, on the recommendation of the Programme Sub-Committee, the Executive Committee

1. welcomed the opportunity of commenting on the draft outline of the Fifth Official Report of the Joint Working Group and thus contributing to the preparation of the Report itself;

2. noted the intention of the Joint Working Group in its Report not only to review and summarize the activities during the past seven years, but also to assess the present ecumenical situation and to make proposals for the future direction of cooperation between the Roman Catholic Church and the WCC;

3. emphasized that any assessment of the ecumenical situation and evaluation of results achieved should be jointly supported rather than presenting two parallel self-assessments of the partners involved;

4. urged that clarity be brought into the relationship between the joint theological work being done under the auspices of the Joint Working Group, in the framework of the Commission on Faith and Order and in bilateral dialogues between the Roman Catholic Church and WCC member churches;

5. expressed hope that the experience of the ancient Orthodox Churches in relating to the Roman Catholic Church would be taken into account more fully in future work of the Joint Working Group so that its results would have a more immediate impact on these churches;

6. commended strongly the intention of relating the work of the Joint Working Group more directly to ecumenical efforts, including the Roman Catholic Church, on regional and national levels, hoping that the Joint Working Group could play a facilitating role and encourage greater responsiveness to ecumenical cooperation regionally and nationally on the part of the Roman Catholic Church;

7. suggested that to this end the following emphases should be included in the proposed framework for future activities: ecumenical education, human relationships in the family context, relations with people of other faiths, opportunities for celebrating the religious heritage together in local contexts, particularly in Christian minority situations, coordination of the activities of service agencies on both sides to avoid divisive effects on the local communities.

11. PUBLIC ISSUES

The General Secretary proposed that at the beginning of the Central Committee meeting he should make reference to all proposed statements, including not only those on public issues but also on matters such as the letter from the Sheffield Consultation on the Community of Women and Men in the Church. This was agreed.

A. Increased threats to peace and the task of the churches

Mr Koshy referred to the statement made by the Executive Committee meeting in Liebfrauenberg, in February 1980, and to the further deterioration of the situation since then. He presented a draft statement which it was proposed to submit to the Central Committee through the Committee on Unit II.

It was agreed to submit the proposed draft to the Committee on Unit II together with the comments made in discussion.

B. Namibia

Mr Koshy introduced guidelines which had been adopted by the CCIA Commission meeting in May 1981, and endorsed by the PCR Commission meeting in July 1981, suggesting elements which might be incorporated in a statement on Namibia.

It was agreed to submit the guidelines to the Committee on Unit II together with the comments made in discussion.

At a later session, Dr Raiser, on behalf of Unit II, asked whether a statement might be brought to the Central Committee on the recent raids by the South African Government on squatter camps. This was agreed.

POLAND

Mr Fischer reported on the involvement of CICARWS in the programme of material aid to Poland initiated at the request of the Polish Ecumenical Council in December 1980. An appeal had been issued in May 1981 for $500,000 for the shipment of food and medical supplies and the Polish Ecumenical Council had organized a distribution network for supplying institutions run by the churches. The Lutheran World Federation had recommended its agencies to support this appeal and the Roman Catholic Church was also heavily involved in such programmes. A visit to Poland was planned in October and a decision would then be taken about the future of the programme.

THE SOURYANIS OF TURKEY

Dr Taylor introduced a report on the visit to the Federal Republic of Germany and Scandinavia by Ms van Hoogevest, Coordinator of the Refugee Service, and Mr Rubeiz, Secretary for the Middle East, CICARWS, to discuss asylum seeking in Western Europe by the Souryanis (Syrian Orthodox) of South East Turkey. This was part of the attempt to follow up the discussion in Central Committee in August 1980 (Minutes, pp. 76-77) on Christian emigration policy, particularly with regard to the Middle East. There had also been a consultation organized by the Middle East Council of Churches in Beirut in October 1980.

In discussion it was pointed out that the whole issue indirectly touched all Christians in the Middle East, and that a solution other than emigration should be found. The Executive Committee agreed:

1. that staff be encouraged to give all possible help in humanitarian, pastoral and other ways to the Souryanis;

2. that ways and means of representations to the Turkish Government be explored;

3. that closer collaboration be devised between churches in the Middle East and in the West.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE

The report was presented by Ms Skuse. On the recommendation of the Nominations Sub-Committee, the Executive Committee agreed to make the following nominations for appointment by the Central Committee:

A. Central Committee

1. Bishop John Hurst Adams, African Methodist Episcopal Church, to succeed Bishop Jordan, who had died.

2. Metropolitan Filaret of Minsk and Byelorussia, Russian Orthodox Church, to succeed the Rev. Nikolai Teteryatnikov, who had resigned.

3. Bishop John Samuel of Multan, Church of Pakistan, to succeed Prof. Anwar Barkat, who had resigned.

4. The Rev. Isaias Funzamo, Presbyterian Church of Mozambique, to succeed the Rev. Jacques Blanc, who had resigned, the nomination to be subject to acceptance of the Presbyterian Church of Mozambique as an associate member church of the WCC, and the statutory six-month waiting period.

5. It was reported that since the nomination in February 1981 of Ato Mersie Abebe to replace Ato Tsegaye Habte, Ethiopian Orthodox Church, who had resigned, Ato Mersie had been replaced as General Secretary of the church by Ato Abebaw Yegizaw, who had now been nominated by the church to serve on the Central Committee. The Executive Committee agreed:

   a. to rescind the nomination of Ato Mersie Abebe approved in February, and

   b. to nominate Ato Abebaw Yegizaw to replace Ato Tsegaye Habte as a member of Central Committee.

B. Executive Committee

U Kyaw Than, Burma Baptist Convention, to succeed Prof. Barkat, who had resigned.

C. Moderator of Unit II Committee

Dr Robert Campbell, American Baptist Churches in the USA, to succeed Prof. Barkat, who had resigned.

D. DFI Working Group

Dr Judith Brown, Church of England, to succeed Ms Gwen Cashmore, who had resigned.

E. Unit Committee membership

1. New members of Central Committee

   - Mr Mogoba, replacement for Dr Nyembezi (General Secretariat) to Unit II

   - Mr Kishimoto, replacement for Ms Okuda (Unit I) to Unit II

   - Dr Mooi, replacement for Dr van den Heuvel (Unit II) to General Secretariat

2. Changes

- Bishop Klein from General Secretariat to Unit I

- Mr Anchimiuk from Unit I to Unit III

- Bishop Nacpil from Unit I to Unit III

3. Substitute (for the 1981 Central Committee meeting)

Mr Enilson Rocha Souza, substitute for Pastor de Mello (Unit I) to Unit II.

5. REPORT OF THE FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

Dr McCloud presented the report of the Finance Sub-Committee as follows:

1. Introductory Report to Central Committee

The Finance Sub-Committee gave attention to the following items which must receive major consideration in the Central Committee:

a. 1980 financial report
b. 1981 financial situation
c. Income projections and additional resources available
d. Pre-Assembly travel budgets
e. 1982 revised budgets
f. Means of achieving a balanced budget in 1983
g. Sixth Assembly budget

On the basis of information on these items considered by the Finance Sub-Committee within the context of previous decisions of the Executive Committee, the Moderator will present an introductory report on the financial situation to the Central Committee.

Other items which will require consideration by the Finance Committee of Central Committee are matters arising from the Report of the Finance Consultation, held in May 1981, in Annecy, and proposals for the establishment of an Emergency Reserve.

2. New York Office Budget

The 1982 proposed budget of the New York Office was reviewed by the Finance Sub-Committee.

3. Special Funding

The Finance Sub-Committee received a report on special funding previously authorized.

A. Community Study on Women and Men in the Church (CWMC)

Authorization had been given to seek for the Sheffield International Consultation budget and for the costs of the CWMC

Study Desk in 1981, a total amount of SFr. 630,000.

The Sub-Committee was gratified to learn that actual income and pledges received cover this total amount. This item is therefore removed from the special funding category.

Sincere thanks are expressed to member churches and agencies which generously responded to this request for special funding.

B. Sixth Assembly

The only remaining item of special funding is the Sixth Assembly for which authorization has been given to approach member churches for a total of SFr. 5.5 million.

At present, cash in hand and firmly pledged amounts to SFr. 467,400 while oral pledges bring the total to SFr. 2,492,400

The greater majority of member churches have yet to respond to the Sixth Assembly financing request. The Sub-Committee expressed the hope that they will be encouraged to make their own pledges known as soon as possible, preferably by the end of 1981.

In considering this matter, the Finance Sub-Committee considers that funding for any additional activities to be organized around the Sixth Assembly should be approved only after the authorized special funding for the Assembly Budget has been fully subscribed

4. Application of Banking Criteria to WCC Banks doing Business in South Africa

At its meeting in February 1981, the Executive Committee adopted specific criteria to serve as guidelines in determining the relations of the WCC with banks doing business in South Africa (Minutes, p. 53). The Executive Committee had furthermore requested:

- that the Acting General Secretary establish the necessary process in order to present to the Executive Committee in August
  - i. the result of the application of the criteria;
  - ii. specific recommendations as to banks from which WCC funds should be withdrawn, and
  - iii. alternative banking servies for those discontinued.

In accordance with this request a report was presented to the Executive Committee by the General Secretariat and was referred to the Finance Sub-Committee for detailed consideration.

The Finance Sub-Committee has given detailed attention to the report and has considered all the additional information it required in relation to both the correspondence and dialogue which has taken place with the banks used by the WCC. The Sub-Committee expresses its satisfaction with the careful and thorough approach which has been adopted in applying the criteria to each bank, and recognises the painstaking effort to provide such a comprehensive report.

The Sub-Committee is in full agreement with the conclusions of the report, and recommends the following actions to the Executive Committee:

a. That WCC relations with the following banks be maintained:

Algemene Bank Nederland
Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken
Bankers Trust Company
Banque Scandinave en Suisse
Union Bank of Finland
Lloyds Bank Limited

b. That steps be taken to terminate WCC relations with the following banks:

Union Bank of Switzerland
Dresdner Bank
Swiss Bank Corporation

c. That WCC relations with the following banks be maintained pending the results of further dialogue with the banks concerned:

American Express Bank (Switzerland)
Banque Worms, Paris
Schroder, Münchmeyer Hengst & Co.
Banque Internationale pour l'Afrique Occidentale
Morgan Guaranty Trust Company, New York

d. That relationships may be established or extended with any or all of the following banks which are acceptable when compared to the criteria laid down, and which could serve as alternatives to those listed in (b) above:

Genossenschaftliche Zentralbank
Internationale Genossenschaftsbank
Algemene Bank Nederland, Geneva
Lloyds Bank Limited, Geneva

The Executive Committee accepted these recommendations.

The Finance Sub-Committee further recommends that in conveying the decisions to member churches:

- reference be made to the fact that these are the first major recommendations on banking relationships since 1974;

- that the decisions be seen as an integral part of a consistent and continuing policy of the World Council over the past nine years;

- that the actions be seen as symbolic of the Council's full support for the liberation of South Africa from the system of racism embodied in apartheid;

- that the WCC believes it has no choice but to break its relations with banks which have provided satisfactory

and, in one case, very long, financial services to the Council, but which are in contravention of the Council's long-stated position on bank loans to South Africa, and of the criteria which have been established.

The Executive Committee accepted these recommendations.

The General Secretary indicated that in order to allow time for the member churches and the banks to be informed of these decisions, this matter would remain confidential until 15 September, when a press conference would be held.

The Finance Sub-Committee further recommends that the General Secretary be requested to establish means for continuing to keep under review the WCC's relationships with banks in relation to the criteria, and provide reports to the Executive Committee as may be necessary. The Executive Committee agreed.

5. Separation of Endowment Fund Investments

At the February 1981 meeting, following an initiative by the Board of the Ecumenical Institute, the Executive Committee recognized "the special nature of Endowment Funds, and the need to preserve the security of capital invested, and to maximise the return on that capital". Moreover, in the case of the Ecumenical Institute Endowment Fund, it was appreciated that an increase in income earned on the Endowment Fund may reduce the dependency of the Institute on the Council's undesignated income. The Executive Committee recommended that further studies be undertaken "with a view to identifying specific investments for the Endowment Fund of the Council", and requested that proposals be brought to the Central Committee in August 1981.

The following purpose and criteria have been drafted for the management of Endowment Fund investments of the Ecumenical Institute. They have been approved by the Board of the Ecumenical Institute and the Investment Advisory Group.

Purpose: To secure a reliable income for the work of the Ecumenical Institute in addition to the funds received from the World Council of Churches and from donors. To provide therefore a stable fixed income for the operations of the Institute.

Criteria:

1. The Endowment Fund is to be held separately from other WCC investments.

2. The investments are to be in securities which provide a maximum rate of interest compatible with an acceptable level of security.

3. The fund should be invested in interest-bearing securities of a public nature, or in obligations which carry public guarantees, such as the obligations of governments, international organizations, and bodies benefitting from

government guarantees, with care being exercised about such factors as the existing debt loads, the general credit rating, and other indicators of prudent investment.

4. Since the purpose of the fund is to secure a stable income, marketability is not as important a factor, nor the appreciation or depreciation of the securities as the yield, since it is intended that the investments should be held to maturity. (Private placements could thus at times offer an attractive investment.)

5. The bulk of the investments should be in obligations maturing over a period of up to eight years.

6. At least two-thirds of the investment should be in Swiss currency obligations. Up to one-third may be in other strong currencies.

7. The policies of the World Council of Churches restricting the kinds of obligations in which WCC funds can be invested shall apply (e.g. obligations of the Republic of South Africa, and so forth).

8. Reports of the holdings of the fund shall be reported to the annual meeting of the Board of the Ecumenical Institute and, upon request, to the Executive Group of the Board.

The Finance Sub-Committee recommends that the above criteria be adopted as a basis for investment of the Endowment Fund of the Ecumenical Institute. It further recommends that, with retroactive effect from January 1981, investments to the value of the Fund be separated, 50% of the amount to be in high-yielding bonds falling within the agreed criteria, and 50% to be in fiduciary deposits to give freedom of longer-term investment.

The Executive Committee accepted these recommendations.

6. Report on the WCC Computer System

The Report presented to the Executive Committee in August 1980 underlined the difficulties that were being experienced with the service bureau that is operating the WCC computer system.

Although improvements have been recognized in day-to-day operations, in the restoration of an acceptable confidence level of the WCC staff in the system, and in the quality of the input data to the system, further difficulties have been experienced. In particular, the cost of the present operation is considered to be too high and is still increasing. Preliminary enquiries have indicated that other solutions could bring substantial savings.

Earlier this year, Deloitte, Haskins and Sells were asked to carry out an appraisal of the present computer system, to evaluate its cost effectiveness and to help define a computer strategy for the future.

The report's general conclusions were that:

- WCC should revert to an in-house EDP system
- Accounting programmes would have to be re-done, but other application programmes might be retained
- A new system could not be operational before January 1983.

Following discussion of Deloitte's report, the Staff Computer Coordination Group generally agreed that it realistically reflected the present situation. The report's conclusion on the software development technique used by the service bureau, on the documentation available and on the high cost of the operation confirmed that the Group's doubts about the viability of a long-term relationship with the present service bureau were realistic.

The choice of a new system would have to be subjected to the following constraints:

- availability of technical back-up in or close to Geneva
- as much compatibility as possible with the existing system
- possible linkage with LWF should be explored.

Quotations for a new system are now being requested from several potential suppliers so as to be in a position to be operational by the end of the present contract with the service bureau (31 December 1982).

The Finance Sub-Committee recommends that the WCC should move to its own computer on the following conditions:

- the supplier be chosen on the basis of competitive bidding
- the initial investment be capitalized during the development period
- the cost of the change distributed to the sub-units in the finance charge of the first five years of operation, and
- the resulting annual charge to sub-units, including the capitalization element, shall be lower than the present operating costs.

The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation.

7. Investment Advisory Group Membership

Since the February 1981 Executive Committee meeting, steps have been taken to restore the membership of the Investment Advisory Group to a minimum level and the following persons resident in Geneva are recommended for formal appointment by the Executive Committee:

Mr Guy Demole

Mr J.P. Pronk

Mr Walter Leutenegger

All three have indicated their willingness to serve, and Mr Jean-Paul Widmer has agreed to continue as a member of the Group.

The Executive Committee accepted these recommendations.

8. Financial Implications of Staff Appointments

The Finance Sub-Committee reviewed the financial implications of staff appointments approved by the Staffing Sub-Committee.

9. Staff Rules and Regulations

The Finance Sub-Committee recommends that the General Secretary be authorized to assist those members of staff who, as a result of the legislation of their own countries, are subject to and are required to pay double taxation on amounts received from the WCC in the form of salaries or allowances, and that provision for such help be included in the Staff Rules and Regulations of the Council.

The Executive Committee accepted these recommendations.

10. Depreciation of Land and Buildings

At its February 1981 meeting, the Executive Committee recommended that a report be prepared for study at the August 1981 meeting on depreciation of land and buildings. As requested, approaches have been made to several large member churches to ascertain their practice in relation to such depreciation.

The replies received lead the Finance Sub-Committee to the conclusion that consideration should be given to charging depreciation of buildings as an annual operating cost and providing an equivalent amount for capital repairs and the ultimate replacement of WCC premises. While recognizing the need, the Finance Sub-Committee faced the dilemma of aggravating an already difficult task of balancing the 1982 and 1983 Budgets; moreover, it considers that the major matter relating to depreciation, that concerned with furniture and fittings, was already dealt with satisfactorily by the Executive Committee in February 1981 (Minutes, p. 41). The Finance Sub-Committee therefore agreed to recommend no action at this time but will keep the matter under review for future consideration. The Executive Committee agreed.

The Executive Committee received the report of the Finance Sub-Committee and accepted its recommendations.

PROGRAMME OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Mr Perkins presented the draft agenda and timetable for the Central Committee. The proposed arrangements were approved.

17. SIXTH ASSEMBLY

The Assembly Preparations Committee (APC) had met in Bad Saarow, GDR, 10-12 August. Ms Webb outlined the report which the APC would present to the Central Committee, together with recommendations for action and proposals for further discussion. Major items included the pre-Assembly Bible studies, the visitation programme and the communication plan. Tentative proposals for the four major concerns arising out of the theme, and the issues ripe for action, would also be presented. There would be recommendations regarding the various categories of participants. Detailed work on the programme would be undertaken at the next meeting of the APC with the Planning Committee in Vancouver.

The Moderator indicated that, following the presentation of this initial report to the Central Committee, there would be discussion in Unit Committees and the Committee on the General Secretariat, and further meetings of the APC, before a final report was submitted to the Central Committee.

18. RULES OF PROCEDURE

The General Secretary presented a staff document prepared in response to the request of the Central Committee and following discussion by the Executive Committee in February 1981, offering suggestions for a simplified interpretation of rules of procedure at Central Committee meetings. It was noted that these applied only to meetings of the Central Committee; there had been no attempt as yet to revise procedures for the Assembly, which would require a more basic reconsideration of the rules of procedure.

It was agreed to refer the document to the Programme Sub-Committee.

At a later session, on the recommendation of the Programme Sub-Committee, the Executive Committee agreed:

a. to receive the statement and endorse it as a simplified interpretation of the present rules of debate and procedure;

b. to refer the paper to the Central Committee for consideration by the Committee on the General Secretariat in order that the matter be presented to Central Committee before the final business sessions.

19. FUTURE MEETINGS

The following dates for meetings of the Executive and Central Committees were noted:

15-19 February 1982 (arrival 14 February)	Executive Committee	Geneva

15-17 July 1982 (arrival 14 July)	Executive Committee	Geneva
19-28 July 1982	Central Committee	Geneva
28 February - 4 March 83 (arrival 27 February)	Executive Committee	Geneva
21-23 July 1983 (arrival 20 July)	Executive Committee	Vancouver Canada

CLOSING ACTIONS

The Moderator closed the meeting with prayer.

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT:

Presidents:	His Holiness Iliya II
	Hon. Ms Justice A.R. Jiagge
	Prof. J. Miguez-Bonino
	Most Rev. O. Sundby
	Dr T.B. Simatupang
	Dr C. Wedel
Officers:	Most Rev. E.W. Scott (Moderator)
	His Holiness Karekin II (Vice-Moderator)
	Ms J. Skuse (Vice-Moderator)
	Rev. Dr P.A. Potter (General Secretary)
Members:	His Eminence Bishop Antonie (Plamadeala)
	Mr H.A. Ashmall
	Mr Bena-Silu
	His Eminence Metropolitan Chrysostomos
	Rev. J.G. Gatu
	His Eminence Metropolitan Dr Paulos Mar Gregorios
	Bishop Dr. H.H. Harms
	Bishop Dr J.W. Hempel
	Rev. Dr Won Yong Kang
	His Eminence Archbishop Kirill (Goundiaev)
	Rev. J.M. Leite
	Rev. Dr J.O. McCloud
	Rev. Dr D.W. Preus
	Ms D. Sampath
	Ms P. Webb
Guest:	His Eminence Archbishop Nikolozi (Makharadze)
Observer:	Dr S. Lee
Staff:	Rev. Dr P. Abrecht
	Ms M. Assaad
	Prof. A.M. Barkat
	Rev. Dr U. Becker
	Rev. J. Bluck
	Rev. Dr K.R. Bridston
	Rev. E. Castro
	Mr P. Coīdan
	Mr T. Davies
	Mr J. Fischer
	Dr K. Hertz
	Mr W. Kenworthy
	Dr S. Kingma
	Mr N. Koshy
	Rev. Dr W. Lazareth
	Mr P. Moss
	Rev. W. Perkins
	Rev. Dr K. Raiser
	Prof. T. Sabev
	Rev. Dr J. de Santa Ana

	Rev. A. Sapsezian
	Rev. Canon D. Tatchell
	Dr J.B. Taylor
	Rev. B. von Wartenberg
Interpreters:	Ms I. Friedeberg
	Mr B. Gagua
	Ms R. Ginglas-Poulet
	Mr A. Tchijov
Minute writer:	Ms A. Burrows
Administration:	Ms B. Baker
	Ms P. Bird
	Ms R. Kilchenmann

APOLOGIES:

Honorary President	Rev. Dr W.A. Visser 't Hooft

APPENDIX II

MEMBERSHIP OF SUB-COMMITTEES

Sub-Committee on Finance

Rev. Dr J.O. McCloud (Moderator)
His Eminence Bishop Antonie (Plamadeala)
Mr H.A. Ashmall
Mr Bena-Silu
Bishop Dr H.H. Harms
Most Rev. E.W. Scott
Most Rev. O. Sundby
Dr C. Wedel

Sub-Committee on Programme

His Holiness Karekin II (Moderator)
His Eminence Metropolitan Chrysostomos
Rev. J.G. Gatu
His Eminence Metropolitan Dr Paulos Mar Gregorios
Bishop Dr J.W. Hempel
His Holiness Iliya II
Prof. J. Miguez-Bonino
Rev. Dr D.W. Preus
Ms P. Webb

Sub-Committee on Staffing and Nominations

Ms J. Skuse (Moderator)
Hon Ms Justice A.R. Jiagge
Rev. Dr Won Yong Kang
His Eminence Archbishop Kirill (Goundiaev)
Rev. J.M. Leite
Ms D. Sampath
Dr T.B. Simatupang

SPECIAL FUND TO COMBAT RACISM

LIST OF ALLOCATIONS FOR 1981

I. RACIALLY OPPRESSED GROUPS

	US Dollars
Africa	
*African National Congress (ANC)	65,000
*Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC)	45,000
*South West Africa Peoples Organisations (SWAPO)	125,000
*South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU)	15,000
	250,000
Asia	
*National Council for Combating Discrimination against Ethnic Peoples in Japan	12,000
Australasia (Australia & New Zealand)	
*Foundation for Aboriginal & Islander Research Action Ltd.	4,000
*Kimberley Land Council	25,000
*North Queensland Black Publishing Co. & the North Queensland Land Council (Townsville Br.)	10,000
*North Queensland Land Council	20,000
*Yipirinya School Council	10,000
*Te Ropu Tomokia	6,000
	75,000
Caribbean	
*Movimiento Ecuménico Nacional de Puerto Rico (PRISA, Puerto Rico)	7,500
Guadeloupe Union of Christian Youth Movements (UGMJ) and Christian Group for Research & Action (CCRA), Guadeloupe	7,500
	15,000
Pacific	
Independence Front of New Caledonia	10,000

	US Dollars
USA	
*Indian Law Resource Center	9,500
*Manzo Area Council	14,000
*National Conference of Black Lawyers	9,500
*TransAfrica	27,000
	60,000
E U R O P E	
England	
*Institute of Race Relations	9,000
*Race Today Collective	9,000
Searchlight	9,000
*Southall Youth Movement	9,000
France	
*Association des Marocains	8,000
*Association des Travailleurs Haitiens Immigrés	8,000
*Comités des Travailleurs Algériens	8,000
*Mouvement contre le Racisme et pour l'amitie entre les peuples	5,000
*Union Générale des Travailleurs Sénégalais	8,000
*Union des Travailleurs Immigrés Tunisiens	8,000
Germany [West]	
* Interessengemeinschaft der mit Ausländern verheirateten deutschen Frauen - Verband bi-nationaler Familien & Partnerschaft	4,000
Netherlands	
*Cultural Media Collective	5,000
	90,000

II. SUPPORT GROUPS

		US Doll
Asia	*Japan Anti-Apartheid Committee	6,00
Australia	*Campaign Against Racial Exploitation	5,00
	*Institute for Aboriginal Development	4,00
Canada	SACTU Solidarity Committee	4,00
USA	*Haitian Refugee Project	7,00
	*Southern Africa Support Project	5,00
	*Washington Office on Africa	5,00
Belgium	*Aktiekomitee Zuidelijk Afrika	4,00
	*Comité contre le Colonialism et l'apartheid	4,00
England	*Hong Kong Research Project	3,00
	*Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants	5,00
	South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee	5,00
Germany [West]	*Anti-Apartheid Movement	6,000
	*Information Centre on Southern Africa	
Ireland	Irish Anti-Apartheid Movement	5,000
Switzerland	Erklärung von Bern	7,000
		75,000

TOTAL: US $ 587,000

* Movements which received grants before